

November-
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Thule Times Editorial Staff

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Season of giving extends throughout the year at Top of the World

1st Lt. Nicole Langley
 821st ABG Public Affairs

While the holiday season is typically considered a season of giving, for the men and women at Thule Air Base, Greenland, this season of giving extends throughout the entire year.

Serving at the DoD's northernmost installation in the world – not far from the North Pole and Santa Claus himself – the members of Team Thule, who are separated from their own families and loved ones, focus on supporting Operation Julemand, an ongoing charity drive that raises money to purchase Christmas gifts for native Inuit children.

"Operation Julemand is a local humanitarian mission organized and supported by Team Thule personnel to purchase and give Christmas gifts to Greenlandic children in four local villages," said Chaplain (Capt.) Martin Adamson, 821st Air Base Group chaplain and president of the Operation Julemand Foundation, the private organization that coordinates

the operation. "Money raised also supports Armed Forces Day celebrations and gifts for elderly and youth service organizations throughout the year."

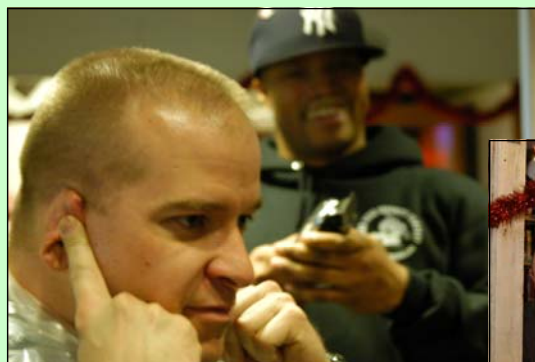
Operation Julemand began as Operation Santa Claus in 1959, when it was first organized by Capt. John McTamney and Airman 1st Class Delbert Cox.

Captain McTamney summed up his motivation for creating the operation by stating, "As long as we cannot be home with our own children, let's bring a little happiness to the children of the area."

That first year, \$778.33 was collected to buy Christmas gifts for 209 Greenlandic and 25 Danish children living in the area.

Although, the name was later changed to Operation Julemand – the Danish word for Santa Claus – the giving continues, although on a slightly larger scale. The amount raised for 2007 was approximately \$22,000 and \$10,000 has already been raised for 2008.

See **JULEMAND**, Page 3



Photos by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

From head shaving to a Jail and Bail, everyone who attended the Julemand Festival Nov. 17, was able to participate in some way, and contribute to the Operation Julemand cause.

Julemand Festival



Light the tree!



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rodney Cathcart

Team Thule gathers in front of the 821st Air Base Group Headquarters building Nov. 2 for the lighting of the base Christmas tree. The lights will shine throughout the entire dark season at Thule and will not be turned off until the sun appears in February.

We're all here because we're not all there

1st Lt. Nick Van Elsacker
821st Civil Engineer Flight commander

Author Robert Heinlein once said, "A pessimist is correct oftener than an optimist, but an optimist has more fun – and neither can stop the march of events."

I know that a lot of people stationed at Thule Air Base didn't want to come here. My own first choice for a short tour was Honduras, picturing warm beaches, palm trees and an exciting Latin culture.

Of course, when I found out at this time last year I was going to be moving to northwest Greenland, I was nearing the end of an eight-month deployment in eastern Afghanistan. The 120+ degree weather, malaria-carrying mosquitoes and

terrorists made it rather easy to accept my Arctic fate.

I quickly convinced myself to look forward to my next year on Top of the World. After all, I grew up on a farm on the outskirts of a town with less than 700 people, where cow-tipping and off-roading were the biggest past times. Regardless of what Thule had to offer, I knew that it would certainly be an interesting experience.

Now I've been here nearly six months and I've already hiked all over the peninsula, walked on the ice cap and even eaten whale meat. I'm working on finishing one of the last two classes for my master's degree and I get to earn extra cash on the weekends by teaching an algebra

course for a long-distance college program. Greenland really isn't that bad of a place ... have you tried to make the best of it? There have been plenty of times in my life that I haven't had what I wanted, so I made due with what I had. Without being hungry and broke at the same time, I would have never discovered the diversity of tortilla shells and sandwich cheese, or that Ramen noodles and breakfast sausage make one heck of a stir fry. There really is a bright side to everything.

Take advantage of what Thule has to offer. Finish your education, catch up on your movies or reading, get in shape, save some money, and spend the winter relaxing and the summer exploring. We're on Top of the World, so make the best of it!

JULEMAND from Page 1

"Team Thule can take great pride in knowing Operation Julemand is the largest fundraising effort in the northern part of Greenland," said Col. Lee-Volker Cox, 821st Air Base Group commander. "It demonstrates to the Greenlanders that America and Americans are their friends and we care. We may be at the Top of the World, but we are not alone."

Team Thule raises money for the operation a number of ways, including annual events such as the Julemand Festival, a coat check at the First Night and First Light celebrations, and coin drop boxes at the Base Exchange.

However, if people have creative, fun ideas for fundraising for Operation Julemand, we support those as well, added Chaplain Adamson.

This year, extra fundraising events included the Thule Biggest Loser Contest and a Texas Hold'em Tournament, where all entry fees for both events went directly to the Operation Julemand fund. "When you see an Operation Julemand event, it's obvious our entire multi-national Thule family – Americans, Danes, Greenlanders and Canadians – is involved," said Colonel Cox.

"It's heartwarming and an indication of the quality of our team to see everyone come together to help the local children and elderly. When you live in a location as remote as Thule, we need to take care of our people not only on the base, but also the surrounding areas."

Each year, the festival can be

counted on as an entertaining day for Team Thule, as well as the biggest fundraising event of the year. This year's festival, held Nov. 17, began with an athletic competition at the Fitness and Sports Center, and then moved on to the Community Center where attendees enjoyed an afternoon and evening of fair-style activities.

Highlights from this year's festival included a pie-in-the-face event, head and eyebrow shaving, a 'Thule Idol' singing contest, Jail and Bail, auction and booths with various items for sale, including jewelry, Christmas ornaments and traditional Danish refreshments. During the one-day festival, more than \$7,000 was raised.

"I am amazed at how much was donated for the festival, said the chaplain. "It far surpassed any expectation or hope I had, but when it is for a good cause and is fun, people want to give."

The money raised each year is used to purchase gifts for the following year, and the 280 gifts purchased for this year's distribution were wrapped at the Community Center near the beginning of the holiday season.

Once the gifts are wrapped and tagged with the names of individual children, the Danish Liaison Office, a key player in each year's operation because of the continuity they're able to provide, makes the arrangements with Air Greenland to have the gifts flown to the villages.

"What we do is not much, but in a

small way it shows the great generosity of Americans and the Danish people," said the chaplain. "Ultimately, it brings a smile to the faces of children who live simple lives. I am a believer in simplicity, but one toy for a child can really bring a season of joy."

"In the middle of our four-month Arctic night where we don't see the sun, the smile of a child receiving an Operation Julemand gift will light up the sky," added the colonel.

While many things about Thule Air Base have changed since 1959, the selfless act of giving and helping others remains constant.

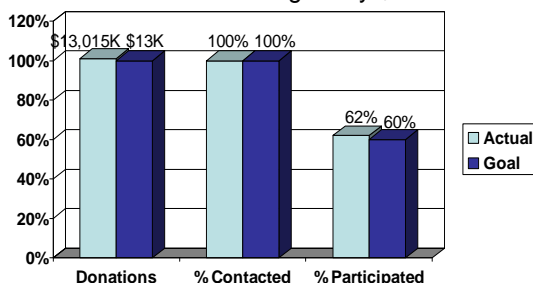
Staff Sergeant Kait Beck, 821st Support Squadron and chairperson for this year's Julemand Festival Working Group, explained that her participation and work raising money for Operation Julemand was a way of honoring those who helped her during a period in her life when she was struggling financially.

"While those kids may not remember 20 years from now what it is they received this Christmas, they will remember the kindness of others," said Sergeant Beck. "And, just maybe they will return the favor by helping someone who needs it someday."

As 2007 nears a close, and for many brings an end to the season of giving, the men and women of Team Thule continue to donate their coins at the BX and plan fundraisers for 2008 to raise money and hope for children at the Top of the World.

CFC Update

Gold level for participation
Gold level for average donation
Beat financial goal by \$15

**Thule's 2007 CFC ends on high note**

Team Thule wrapped up its Combined Federal Campaign for 2007. Although, the final data has not officially been released, Thule's CFC organizers have confirmed that the base exceeded its goals, as well as the amount contributed in 2006.

First Night Festival

Beginning at 6 p.m. the night of Nov. 3, and lasting until approximately 3 a.m. the following morning, more than 300 members of the Thule Air Base community enjoyed live music, dancing and an abundant menu of food at the First Night Festival.

Sponsored by local businesses, the festival is an annual tradition on base that marks the last sunset for almost four months. The sun set for the final time Oct. 31 and will not re-appear until Feb. 11.

A Danish band, The Late Show, provided entertainment for the evening.



Photos by Capt. John Bennett and Staff Sgt. Rodney Cathcart

Air Force flies to Top of the World to care for member

1st Lt. Nicole Langley
821st ABG Public Affairs

Thule Air Base, Greenland, may be located more than 700 miles north of the Arctic Circle, but the people stationed there still receive the care and treatment they need when an emergency arises.

On Dec. 7, a Team Thule member was flown to a stateside hospital for a condition the base clinic was unable to treat.

"The Air Force is more than willing to provide critical medical support for Airmen worldwide – even at the Top of the World," explained Col. Lee-Volker Cox, 821st Air Base Group commander.

Due to the quick response of a medical team and a C-17 aircrew in Germany, that Team Thule member was able to quickly return to the states for proper care and treatment.

A Dover Air Force Base C-17 was at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, when the call came in that a medical evacuation was needed, and was airborne with a Ramstein medical team a little more than three hours after notification.

"Although we'd rather not ever have to medevac anyone, it's good to know that we have the capability to do it on a moment's notice, and when the need arises, that one individual becomes the Air Force's top priority," said Maj. Brian O'Connell, 3rd Airlift Squadron assistant chief of Standardization and Evaluations and aircraft commander for the medevac flight.

The colonel said he feels comfortable knowing that the people at Thule will be taken care of, even if that means



Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

A base ambulance parks next to a C-17 Globemaster III from Dover Air Force Base, Del., Dec. 7 on the flightline at Thule Air Base, Greenland. With temperatures well below zero, the patient is quickly transferred onto the C-17 which flew from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to Thule AB to transport a Team Thule member to a stateside medical treatment facility for emergency care.

flying a C-17 to Greenland for just one person.

"The entire DoD medical infrastructure is available to the Airmen here," said Colonel Cox.

Although Thule is an extremely remote location, the base partners with medical centers around the globe to ensure that members of Team Thule receive the care they need if it is beyond the capabilities of the base clinic.

"We work closely with medical facilities in the states and in Europe to determine the proper facility that can provide treatment for a patient," explained Capt. Michael Metz, Thule's medical liaison officer.

This medevac mission not only proved that the Air Force is dedicated to

caring for its Airmen, but also highlighted the versatility of its aircraft.

"This is what makes the mission of the C-17 so great," explained Major O'Connell. "Seventeen hours earlier we were on the ground in Baghdad unloading armored vehicles, which will help keep our Soldiers and Marines protected and hopefully save lives. Twelve hours after landing back in Germany from our combat mission, we were on our way to Greenland to get one of our Airman vital medical care back in the states."

Due to the combined effort of Airmen in Europe, the U.S. and Greenland, the Thule patient arrived safely at a medical treatment facility in the states for treatment and was later released.

Civil Engineer Fun Fact

* Provided by the 821st Civil
Engineer Flight

Did you know that during the winter, Thule Air Base's power plant burns more than 12,000 gallons of fuel every 24 hours to produce an average of 173,000 Kilowatt-hours per day?

That is enough electricity to run the average U.S. household for more than 16 years!



Thule Spotlight

- Congratulations to Capt. Mike Phipps, who was selected as the next commander of Detachment 2, 21st Operations Group, Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territories.
- Congratulations to Capt. Dave McMillan, who was selected for major.
- 14th Air Force is seeing stars!
 - 14th Air Force commander earns third star: Congress confirmed the promotion of Lt. Gen. William Shelton Dec. 20.
 - Brig. Gen. Jay Santee, 14 Air Force vice commander, pinned on his first star Nov. 2.



Submitted photo

Rene Streander, Detachment 1, 21st Contracting Squadron's system administrator and budget analyst, was honored Dec. 7 as the U.S. Embassy Copenhagen's Employee of the Year for 2007. Mr. Streander competed against 65 foreign service nationals for the title. He has worked at the Embassy since 1989 and for Det. 1 since 1992. The award was presented by Ambassador James Cain.

If you would like to submit something for the Thule Spotlight column, please send it to 821abg.pa@thule.af.mil.

Promotions



Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

Tech. Sgt. David Carlson was promoted to the rank of master sergeant in a ceremony at the 821st Air Base Group Headquarters building Nov. 30.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Taylor

Airman Basic Allison Wulf was promoted to the rank of airman in a ceremony at the 821st Security Forces Squadron building Dec. 11.

Chief's Corner

Chief Master Sgt. Nathalie Swisher
821st ABG superintendent

I'm so proud to still have the opportunity to serve in our great Air Force!

I'd like to share with you my story on how I achieved success. It wasn't easy, but a few things I did made the difference. I set goals, educated myself, volunteered in the community and sought out mentors.

I knew from the moment I entered the Air Force, I was going to be a career Airman. I credit my first few supervisors for my success. Before any of us can do anything we must acquire knowledge and skills. I was taught early on the importance of acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to accomplish my job.

The attention and training I received as an Airman by my supervisors laid a solid foundation for my success. We trained all the time. To this day, I recall and use information I learned during my first assignment.

For example, I had a supervisor who once told me, "Be proactive with your career. Don't let the Air Force tell you where you're going to go and what you're going to do. Plan out your career ahead of time. Set goals for yourself, both short and long term." I pounced on his advice.

By the time I sewed on senior airman and had three years time in service, I was already at my third base. I PCS'd a lot. Ten times in 24 years. Moving around helped me learn how other bases and major commands did business. I never remained stuck in one mode of operation. I pieced things together to get the big picture perspective on the Air Force mission.

In addition, I sought out the tough jobs my peers didn't want and looked for a new job after each promotion. Job rotation helped me develop professionally and avoid complacency. I wanted to be a well-rounded personnelist – exceeding standards, not just meeting them.

Education helped me be successful and further enhanced my skills.

See **CHIEF**, Page 10

Multi-Cultural Committee sponsors spades tournament

The Thule Air Base Multi-Cultural Committee hosted a spades card tournament Nov. 29 at the Top of the World Club. Teams of two battled against each other in a competition that lasted approximately three hours. Prizes included t-shirts and gift cards to the Base Exchange.



Left:

First place -

Senior Airman
Patrick Housman
and Tech Sgt.
Keith Munroe

Right:
Second place -
Tech Sgt. Ryan
Gilbert and Mark
Ball



Left:

Third place -

Staff Sgt. Tyler
Altenhofen and
Canadian Forces
Sgt. Paul Carver

Photos by Staff Sgt. Rodney Cathcart

Visitors at Thule Air Base

Thule Air Base had the privilege of hosting Marine Corps Gen. James E. Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and a group of USO entertainers Nov. 24., as the last stop on their six-day, six-country troop visit.

The group was only on the ground for a little more than an hour, but provided the base with some morale-boosting entertainment by actor Wilmer Valerrama, comedian Russell Peters and model Mayra Veronica.

While the entertainers performed and took photographs with Team Thule at the Top of the World Club, the general met with base leadership and received a brief tour of the base.



Photos by 2nd Lt. Donald Heaton



Left: Team Thule had the opportunity to pose for photos with the USO entertainers and General Cartwright.

Above: Master Sgt. Scott Baber discusses the current power plant issues to the general.



Live music

Thule was treated to multiple live performances by Jason Boland & the Stragglers during the week of Nov. 28 — Dec. 7. The band visited Thule as part of the Armed Forces Entertainment program and brought some country music to the Top of the World.



Photos by 2nd Lt. Donald Heaton



My reason for giving: One Airman's inspiring story

Staff Sgt. Kait Beck
821st Support Squadron

Operation Julemand is an on-going charity drive at Thule Air Base, Greenland, that raises money to purchase Christmas gifts for children in local villages. The men and women at Thule Air Base have been supporting Operation Julemand since its creation in 1959, and in 2007, raised close to \$10,000. People support this charity for a variety of reasons ... here is one woman's story.

My entire philosophy on life is to live a life of servitude. Life is hard enough as it is, so I believe the only way you are going to make it in this world is by helping others.

The past two Christmases, I was a young Airman with two little boys to support. We were struggling to get by. I barely made enough money to pay the bills, let alone buy Christmas presents. The lowest part of my life came when my ex-husband lost his job and couldn't pay child support. I couldn't even buy groceries.

After a few weeks, I ran out of food and diapers. I had half a tank of gas and knew it wouldn't last the week, so I had no idea how I was going to get to

work. I knew I was going to have to do something and I didn't know what. My biggest fear was losing my children.

The next thing I knew there was a knock on my door. It was the wife of a staff sergeant in my squadron. She said they had heard I was struggling and she had brought me groceries! It was enough to help me get through the month. The next day at work, another NCO from my squadron made me drive to the gas station and filled up my car with gas.

A few days later a master sergeant came in to my office and took me to the Base Exchange to pick out Christmas gifts for my kids. Shortly after that, there were presents on my desk every few days for the boys, along with gift certificates for the commissary.

The best gift was when I came home from work and there was a Christmas tree outside my door. You see, the greatest thing in my life is my children. I was at the point where I could not support them any more and was considering putting them up for adoption. I never wanted to give them up, but I knew another family would be able to care for them better than I could. If it had not been for the kindness of others I would have lost my babies, my whole life.

The only thing these givers ever

asked for in return was that I someday return the favor. They all said they had been there at one point in time, and that everyone needs to ask for help sometimes.

A year ago I was promoted and we were finally making it. I was no longer struggling to get by and I could start giving back.

For me, Julemand is a way of honoring those that helped me. I figured, if I love my children that much and it hurt so much to think they may not have had a Christmas, there must be others that are in the same position as myself. I think no child should ever have to do without, especially at Christmas.

I remember the looks on my children's faces when they woke up Christmas morning to all those wonderful gifts from others, and I can imagine it is the same for all the Julemand recipients. I can imagine the joy those children's parents will experience by seeing the looks on their faces, because I was there.

While those kids may not remember 20 years from now what it is they received this Christmas, they will remember the kindness of others. And, just maybe they will return the favor by helping someone who needs it someday.

CHIEF from Page 7

Every day there's something new to learn, even as a chief. Get your education done early so you can apply what you've learned on the job. When you're finished with one thing, start planning for what's next. There's always more to learn. Pay no mind to peers and supervisors who tell you to forget everything you learned at PME, it won't work in this office or shop.

Formal training is another avenue of learning. Never pass up an opportunity to go to any government agency sponsored course or school. The mission will go on without you and you'll be more valuable to your unit when you come back.

I'm sure you would agree, with rank comes power, but everyone knows knowledge is power. Bosses are always looking for the most knowledgeable individual to help, particularly in times of crises.

Community service is the heart of volunteerism. The success of any organization depends on your involvement. Volunteerism will help you brush up on your skills. Consider joining a private or professional organization. You don't have to be involved in every activity going on, but try to hold a leadership

position if you can. Practicing your leadership skills in these organizations will help you be a more effective leader back in the office.

Like everything else, volunteering in our communities doesn't come without sacrifice. You have to be willing to make the time to make things happen.

Having a mentor was really important. I've had several throughout my career and all came from different backgrounds and career fields. They always provided me with good advice when I needed it. They told me one key thing was to always make your Airmen and your bosses look good. Then you wouldn't go wrong.

I was impressed with how they portrayed themselves as role models not only to me, but other people as well. One common trait they all possessed was charisma. I observed many Airmen seeking their help for various reasons, both personal and professional. I wanted to be like them. I wanted others to be able to count on me when needed.

I consider myself to be an ordinary person. Ordinary people aren't always overachievers or underachievers, but we are achievers. You can be an achiever, too. Inspiring Airmen to achieve – I hope I've done that here.

Thule Air Base hosts annual Christmas Party

More than 100 members of the Thule community attended the base's Christmas Party Dec. 13 at the Top of the World Club. The party featured a family-style dinner and a special visit from Santa Claus, who distributed gifts to the Airmen in attendance.

Guests also enjoyed an indoor scavenger hunt, where representatives from each table had to gather specific items located in the building as quickly as possible.



Third Quarter Award Winners

Team Thule Winners

821st Air Base Group Award Winners



Airman of the Quarter:
Airman 1st Class Melanie Camara



Senior NCO of the Quarter:
Master Sgt. Mark Koopman



**821st ABG CGO of the Quarter
and Team Thule Award Winner:**
Capt. John Bennett



**821st ABG NCO of the Quarter
and Team Thule Award Winner:**
Staff Sgt. Rodney Cathcart

12th Space Warning Squadron Award Winners



CGO of the Quarter:
2nd Lt. Donald Heaton



NCO of the Quarter:
Tech Sgt. David Hodd

Chapel provides traditional Christmas Eve religious services for Team Thule



For many people, attending a church service on Christmas Eve is an important tradition. Although located at the Top of the World, America's northernmost chapel ensures that the members of Team Thule can keep that tradition each year.

A Protestant candlelight service was held at 3 p.m., officiated by Chaplain (Capt.) Martin Adamson, installation chaplain. A Catholic Mass followed at 7:30 p.m., officiated by visiting Father (Lt. Col.) Michael Padazinski, Air Force Reserve chaplain and Chancellor in the San Francisco Archdiocese.



Photos by Col. Lee-Volker Cox and 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

Celebrating Christmas at the Top of the World



Although Christmas without family and a familiar setting is a new experience for many Airmen and civilians at Thule Air Base, there was no shortage of good cheer at the Top of the World this holiday season.

Team Thule enjoyed many familiar traditions — in a new location. From caroling to scrumptious holiday dinners to visits by Santa Claus himself, base members were treated to a special holiday, and one that they will surely remember for years to come.



Photos by Col. Lee-Volker Cox and 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

'Twas the Night Before Christmas ... at Thule Air Base

Col. Lee-Volker Cox
821st ABG commander

Early in the evening on Dec. 24, the sound on my TV went dead and I waited for the announcement from the Security Forces control center. I wondered what was it this time – a weather warning for high winds or were we entering Storm Condition Alpha?

Neither, it was Senior Master Sgt. Kurt Schmidtman and Tech Sgt. Anthony Perry announcing that it was time to read *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* to the men and women at the Top of the World. What a wonderful way to start the evening; a tradition for many people here. I'm sure it brought back memories of their childhood or children.

For my family, our tradition was to go to church, followed by a drive around the neighborhood to look at all of the Christmas lights and decorations. By then, Santa had visited our home and presents were awaiting our return.

We may be living at America's

northernmost base, but that is no reason not to follow family traditions. So this Christmas Eve, I attended Mass and then started driving around base. I didn't see anyone out walking, but I did see colored lights, electric candles flickering in windows, decorated trees and Santa waving at passersby from the Community Center. I remember looking up and seeing the bright stars and full moon on a perfectly clear night and then for some reason starting to drive to North Mountain, as if to try to get closer to the stars.

Leaving the base and heading into the darkness, the words I'd heard earlier came back, "Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse." They described Thule Air Base on Christmas Eve perhaps better than any other place on the Earth.

The wind was driving temperatures to the -30 degree Fahrenheit range and nothing was moving. It was quiet. It truly was a silent night. Suddenly at about midnight, I found myself at the top of North Mountain looking down on Thule and viewing the most beautiful Christmas lights I've ever seen. There it

was a beacon of light, 750 miles inside the Arctic Circle – no malls, no highways, no hustle and bustle. Just an outpost of mankind, nestled between two mountains.

The entire base had a golden glow to it, with white, blue, green and red lights coming from the airfield. The full moon was over the icecap reflecting off of the snow around the base, bathing everything in a faint blue, while our star on South Mountain marked the edge of civilization.

From my vantage point, I could see the lights of BMEWS shouting, "We are on watch!" Simultaneously, the Detachment 3 radomes and red flashing lights signaled to everyone, "We are listening!" Looking back at the main base, I could hear the wind say, "Thule's on guard today –all is safe and secure!"

The Thule Family never sleeps. We were on guard yesterday, today and will be tomorrow. Each and every one of us plays a vital role in our Arctic mission. The gift we give is the safety and security of the free world. It is an honor and privilege to serve with you and share this very special season at the Top of the World.



Col. Lee-Volker Cox's view of Thule Air Base from North Mountain on Christmas Eve.

Photo by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

Keeping in touch with families



Although separated from loved ones by thousands of miles, Airmen at Thule Air Base were able to communicate with their families this Christmas via video teleconferences sponsored by the Greenland Tele-Post and Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.



Photos by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

Holiday Décor

As a means of spreading good cheer around the base and encouraging a little friendly competition, Col. Lee-Volker Cox, 821st Air Base Group commander, challenged Team Thule to a holiday door decorating contest. With one- and two-day passes for the best doors, Airmen got busy decorating their office and dormitory doors using all available materials.



First Place

Second Place



Third Place

Photos by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

Team Thule travels to local village to spread cheer

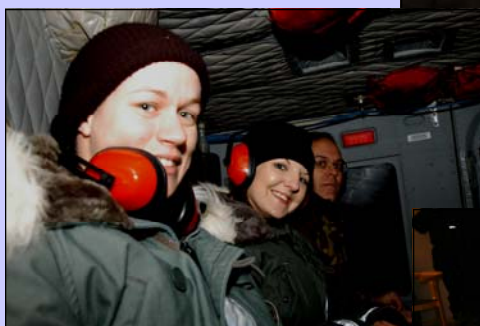
Although a group from Thule Air Base was scheduled to visit the nearby Inuit village of Qaanaaq on Dec. 21, harsh weather prevented the Air Greenland helicopter from taking off and traveling the 65 miles.

The group was planning on attending the Christmas festivities in the village, where nearly 200 gifts that the base purchased with Operation Julemand funds would be distributed.

While they were unable to attend the festivities, the group, including Col. Lee-Volker Cox, 821st Air Base Group commander, and Chief Petty Officer Lars Iversen, Danish Liaison Office, along with key members of the Operation Julemand Foundation, was able to travel to the village the following day.

While in Qaanaaq, the group from Thule met with the mayor and went on a brief tour of the town. They also had the opportunity to visit a home for elderly members of the community.

While meeting with the mayor, Colonel Cox presented a check on behalf of Team Thule, in the amount of \$12,000, to be used for a special project for the community. The money was raised as part of Operation Julemand



Photos by Col. Lee-Volker Cox and 1st Lt. Nicole Langley